

not what the gentlemen from the United

not what the gentlemen from the United States—and still more the ladies—call France; not what contents the dandy, wrapped in sables, and swooping swiftly down by express from St. Petersburg, or the ardent-eyed Brazilian who jumps from the steamer's gangway on the pier at Havre, as eager to squander the heavy lump of dollars he has brought with him as ever was one of the pirate sailors whom Bishop Dampier tells us, to fling away the ill-gotten cash made by shearing the Dons of their golden fleece. Paris has been pronounced, on high authority, to be France; but Paris cannot be taken in and possessed at a glance as smaller places can, and it is, or, alas! was, besides, by far too cosmopolitan to offer those so strongly marked national features, which the eye of a true acquaintance catches so readily. Too much friction is certain to smooth away those salient corners and sharp angles of the popular character. It is in remote regions and nooks difficult of access that the finest specimens are to be found. In hilly districts, for instance, not all yet overrun by the invading army of tourists, the natives will commonly be found to be intensely national. How very High-Dutch, by way of an example, is the sunburnt peasant of the Bavarian highlands, while in the more unfrequented cantons of Switzerland there are actually Swiss who might be esteemed worthy countrymen of the mythic Tell and the real Melchthal, bluff dalesmen utterly unlike the population of walters and toutieurs whom hasty travellers are accre-

and visitors whom hasty travellers are prone to consider as representative Helvetians. Locomotion, in fact, the hurried, general, and indiscriminate rushing in shoals, wherever the steam-horse can whirl along, is an unsparring leveller of the old landmarks. Manners and customs, wants and prices, very soon become assimilated to some uniform standard. There was no doubt a time, not so very far distant, when the differences between nations were more perceptible than they now are. Thus the Frenchman of Shakespeare is very much the same as the Frenchman of Hogarth, as the lean, keener-featured mercenary Gaul, easily irritated, as easily appeased, whom we used to see so much in old caricatures. There was something lovable in that obsolete Frenchman of the 18th century, something of Chivalry withal, a faint suggestion of *l'honneur* naturalised on the banks of the Seine, and with most un-Castilian taste for dancing and fiddling. Now and then, but very seldom, we may still chance upon a survivor of this extinct generation, some spare little man, with a grey head and a long chin, who smirks and bows, if he were some Gallic Rip Van Winkle, newly awakened from a slumber that began when Louis the Fifteenth was king. So, also, with the accepted type of our own insular character. John Bull, with his top boots and flapped pockets, his sturdy self-conceit and his domineering obstinacy, was probably no such very extravagant conception when Gilray's pencil was in savage activity. Minor copies of the great original might be seen in the boxes of every tavern, or making their way with square-toed tread along the crazy pavement of London

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Perhaps the heavy Dutchman, the genuine pipe-smoking, ponderous Hollander, so slow of speech and of thought, so voluminously attired, and with such a taste for vegetating among the flowers, and wooden lions, and gaudily painted summer-houses of the garden on the bank of a sluggish canal, may once have existed elsewhere than in the imagination of satirical novelists. But we cannot find him in the flesh, if we scour the Netherlands from Flushing to the remotest hamlet of Friesland. He and his gorgeous tulips, his fat frowns, and his plump and dangerous legs, have passed away like a dull dream, and the Dutchmen and Dutchwomen of the present day appear to us untroubled by eye to be as lively, active, and well-proportioned a race as any in Europe. There are changes elsewhere. Disgusted tourists return from Ireland, grumbling at the absence of that picturesque poverty and wild spirit of fun that they had gone prepared for. Paddy, they complain, is not the tattered jester they expected him to turn out. Comfort, it seems, spoils the sparkle of the Celtic wit, and even the carmen of Dublin have lost the traditional art of keeping a strange far in a roar of laughter by their powers of repartee. It is possible, in these demure days, to travel through Clare or Kerry without being twice as much amused as when the jaunt was made in the days of Lancashire. The native drollery of the people is fast becoming a tradition, belonging to the barbarous old times that have now happily passed away.

now, and Italy is united and free, and moderately thriving, but her children are perhaps not so kind or so polished as when the long columns of white-coated Austrians used to raise the dust along the Fiamian Way, and when every day or two of travel brought the pilgrim face to face with the striped posts that indicated a new frontier, and a happy host of doganieri and policemen.

The colonising instinct is often said to be one main point in which the Teutonic Nations, English, Dutch, and Germans, differ from the Romance races, and the Spaniards, for example. Yet when we consider that the Spaniards overtook and re-peopled Mexico and Peru, and that an immense proportion of the United States, with the whole Dominion of Canada, once belonged to the French crown, the argument is hardly tenable. It would be more accurate to say that the spirit which once prompted the French and Spaniards to take possession of the waste places of the earth is worn out, or has changed its aims for others. In our own case, in spite of the steady flow of emigration from our shores to the lands of promise that lie beyond the ocean, we are outstripped by the Germans, who pour into America in far increasing numbers, while the Irish have learned to overcome the strong local attachment which for centuries made them as stay-at-home a people as any in Christendom. The grossest improbability that could

That maintainers are greedy for money is a fact that few of those who have roamed among Pyrenean peaks or crossed Alpine passes will be inclined to dispute. The conditions of their existence are so severe as to palliate, if not to excuse, this excessive love of gain. To the inhabitants of the higher Alpine valleys, for example, the battle of life is so continually waged, and the struggle with the ever-present forces of cold and hunger. The wolf is so very near these humble doors of theirs, that we may pardon the poor herdsmen, if they show themselves somewhat grasping in their dealings with those who visit their bleak glens. There is but a short summer, and a sorry harvest of dwarf oats and pigmy barley, even if the straggling corn can be persuaded to ripen at all so near to the flower-bordered edge of the great granite hills. The cows must graze on heather, and their milkmaids be active in cheese-making while the sun shines and the sweet herbage is

The national character of the Jews has unquestionably undergone more than one great change, the first of which dates from the end of the Babylonish captivity. Before that great event the Hebrew race had manifested a fickle but passionate admiration for foreigners and foreign fashions. There were Syriacisms among the Jews of Solomon's reign, as there have been Angelomanisms among the French. Their bravest captains disregarded the law of Moses, that they might ride to war on horseback, like the mounted chieftains of Moab and the cavalry of Egypt. All the fire of the prophetic zeal, and all the rigours of the Judge, could not prevent the smoke of sacrifice from rising from the idolatrous hill-altars. It was in vain that the axe was laid to the stems of the sacred groves of Anti-Lebanon, for fresh sites were found, high up in the mountains, where the dark worship of Astarte and of Molech, perhaps of Isis as well, might be practised under the guidance of heathen priests. There was a constant struggle between the true and staunch supporters of their faith, and the light and frivolous multitude who were drawn towards the splendid paganism that hemmed in the frontiers of Israel.

The negro has altered less, perhaps, whether mentally or physically, within the historical epoch, than any other equally numerous section of the human race. We see his portraiture on the painted monument of Egypt, and we recognise it at a glance. What the ancient travellers the Greek and Arab chroniclers found him, we find him still, with the same easy good temper, the same indolent indifference to the brain-breaking problems that rouse his white brethren to so much feverish activity, and the same child-like aptitude for being quickly elated or quickly depressed. Those who know the black man best, and who have learned to be fond of him, are often the least sanguine respecting his ultimate future. It is thrift, forethought, the power and the will to provide for the future, the most deficient in poor Quashee's often amiable disposition. His material fortune stands, the black race, diminishing but too fast; even in Africa, is dwindling still more rapidly in North America, as the forthcoming census of the United States will prove with the ghastly distinctness of figures. Yet that the genuine negro, under favourable circumstances, can work, save, and prosper, the instance of Barbados will suffice to show.—*All the Year Round.*

And that true place is a very high and important one, if the Lords will use it wisely and make it a power. The great mass of the people are well satisfied that there should be an Upper House, if they could but abolish the lords spiritual and infuse a larger measure of the life-blood into the assembly of the temporal peers. A court of review of the proceedings of the Commons is far from superfluous, and the Lords naturally and instinctively represent ideas and interests which deserve their full share of consideration in the legislation of the country. The debating power of the Peers is higher than that of the Commons, and in any great discussion the ablest arguments on the subject will probably be heard in the Upper House. But while the country regards with thorough satisfaction the balance of our Constitution, it is deeply dissatisfied with the unfeeling antagonism to all Liberal progress which the Peers display. And it asks itself whether it is quite hopeless to see the members of the Upper House in tune with the tendencies of the age, with the convictions of the nation, with their intelligence, gravity, and natural Conservative leaning would simply lend a more measured, stately, and permanent character to our progress than without their ministry could be secured.

It is a stroke of remarkable boldness and vigour. Simple as it seems, its consequences reach far. Like other things which Mr. Gladstone has done, it marks an era; and it is the beginning, if we mistake not, of a decisive change in the constitutional position of the Lords. If the Upper House resigns itself to the guidance of Lord Salisbury, the change will be a rapid one; if Lord Derby is in the ascendant, it will be slow and hardly perceptible. But it has begun. The days of Tory obstruction through the Peers are ended. Much foolish outcry has been raised about the employment of the prerogative to accomplish a great organic reform. The great Reform Bill was carried by the exercise of the prerogative. The power entrusted to the Premier to create peers, without which he refused to return to office, was an exercise of the prerogative. Fortunately the threat was sufficient, but the ark was delayed by its procreative name, and in precisely similar circumstances, the House of Commons and the country were on one side and the Lords on the other, on a question which was of the first importance. The exercise of the prerogative was really then, as it is now, the act of the national will.

PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT IN

An old Scotch lady was told that her minister used notes. She disbelieved it. Said one, "Go into the gallery and see." She did so, and saw the written sermon. After the luckless preacher had concluded his reading on the last page, he said, "But I will not enlarge." The old woman cried from her lofty position, "Ye canna, ye canna! for yer paper's giv' oot."

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STAMP ACT.

SEALS of charges under the Stamp Duties Act of 1855, and the Stamp Act Amendment Act of 1871.

AGREEMENTS.

Agreement, or any minute or memorandum of an agreement under hand only, where the matter therein shall be of the value of five pounds or upwards, whether the same shall be evidence of a contract or obligation on the parties from the being of a written instrument together with every schedule, receipt, or other matter put or endorsed thereon or annexed thereto.

Provided always, that where divers letters shall be offered in evidence to prove any agreement between the parties who shall have written such letters, it shall be sufficient if any such letters shall be stamped with a duty of two shillings and sixpence.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE.

Bill of exchange, draft, or order, viz.—
Draft or order for the payment of any sum of money to the bearer or to order on demand.
Inland bill of exchange, draft, or order for the payment of any sum of money to the bearer or to order at any time otherwise than on demand of any sum of money not exceeding £50.
And where the same shall exceed £100 then for every £50 and also for any fractional part of £50.

Foreign bill, draft, or order for the payment of any sum of money, though not payable to the bearer, or to order of the same, shall be stamped with a duty of two shillings and sixpence, and where the same shall exceed £100 then for every £50 and also for any fractional part of £50.

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Mortgage.—All mortgages of real property, whether by deed or otherwise, shall be stamped with a duty of two shillings and sixpence, and where the same shall exceed £100 then for every £50 and also for any fractional part of £50.

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MR. T. SULLIVAN has received instructions from John Nowlan, Esq., to sell by auction, at the above Yards, on MONDAY next, the 26th instant, at half-past 9 o'clock, 200 head of really prime fat bullocks, in lots, from his famous Irish paddocks, and estimated to weigh fully 500 lbs.

MR. WILLIAM FULLAGAR has received instructions from Mr. B. Richards to sell, at his Yards, Western Road, on MONDAY, 26th instant, at 11 o'clock, 228 head of prime fat cattle, in lots. These cattle will positively be forward.

BUTLER and INGLIS will sell by auction, THIS DAY, at the Railway, at 9 o'clock, sheep, hay, straw, &c., by the truck.

WEEKLY STOCK AND PRODUCE SALE.

BUTLER and INGLIS will sell by auction, THIS DAY, at the Railway Auction Mart, 75, George-street, at 11 o'clock, on the premises, No. 289 George-street, Shop fixtures, counter, glass cases, shelving, &c. Stock-in-trade, clothing, drapery, &c., &c.

Under Distinct for Rent.

H. VAUGHAN has received instructions from the official assignee to sell by auction, on SATURDAY, 23rd instant, at 11 o'clock, on the premises, No. 289 George-street, Shop fixtures, counter, glass cases, shelving, &c. Stock-in-trade, clothing, drapery, &c., &c.

Under Distinct for Rent.

H. VAUGHAN has received instructions to sell by auction, THIS DAY, 22nd instant, at 11 o'clock, on the premises, No. 129, 131, & 133, Household furniture and effects.

On account of whom it may concern, Mr. Charles Teakle will sell by auction, at his Rooms, 7, Wynyard-street, (first floor), THIS DAY, at half-past 10 o'clock, 1599—1 case, 20 dozen assorted fancy wares (1599—1 case, 20 pairs, ditto ditto ditto) 1599—1 case, 60 sets, fancy travelling trunks. All more or less damaged by sea water.

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Important Unreserved Sale of one of the largest and best selected Libraries in the colony.

ALEXANDER MOORE and CO. have been favoured with instructions to sell by public auction, on the above day, about 6000 volumes of books, comprising theology, history, medicine, science, biography, fiction, poetry, and every other department of literature, many of them old and rare, and mostly well bound.

On view at the Labour Bazaar, on TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, the 18th and 19th instant. Catalogues on application to the auctioneers. Terms at sale.

TO GROCERS, COUNTRY STOREKEEPERS, PROVIDORES, &c.

4 Cases Assorted Biscuits, Macs, Raisins, Lemons, Ginger, &c., &c.

5 Cases Curry Powder

10 Ditto Taylor's Mustard

12 Ditto Tinsmith's Malt

95 Ditto Preserved Salmon

32 Ditto Lobsters

45 Ditto Sardines, halves and quarters

73 Ditto Taylor's Homoeopathic Cases

10 Ditto Marmalade, best Scotch

18 Ditto Bottled Fruit

4 Ditto Baking Soda

200 Boxes Taylor's F. W. superior Sperm Candles (with 100 ditto ditto ditto, for Lamp, 7 and 7 1/2, &c., &c.)

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